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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: HILTEBRANDT, Siegfried

Application No.: 09/621,870

Filing Date: July 21, 2000

For: SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

) Examiner:

) RUDDY D.M.

) Art Unit:

) 3739

Atty. Docket No.: US 4037

Amendment

Box AF
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington D.C. 20231
USA

This communication is in response to the final rejection in the subject patent application mailed April 11th, 2002. Please amend this application as indicated below.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 14, 18, 24, and 27 as indicated. Please cancel claims 17, 19, 26, and 28 without prejudice. Claims 16, and 20 to 23 remain unchanged.

14. (twice amended) A surgical instrument for the removal of tissue, the instrument comprising: